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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to compare the attitudes of two- and four-year college chief academic administrators, deans, and department heads in Oklahoma toward community college education. The "Junior College Attitude Survey" was administered to 491 administrators in the 27 public higher education institutions in Oklahoma, soliciting information on their attitudes toward two-year college faculty, students, programs, administration, and facilities. Study findings, based on responses from 118 of the two-year college administrators and 281 of the four-year college administrators, included the following: (1) in general, both two- and four-year college administrators expressed positive attitudes toward all the aspects of community colleges studied, though the two-year college group was more positive in its opinions; (2) there were significant differences between the attitudes of two- and four-year college administrators with respect to community college education, faculty, students, degree programs, and administration, but no differences with respect to facilities; (3) there were also significant differences of opinion within the two- and four-year college administrator groups, including differences between chief academic administrators and division heads; and (4) generally, the most positive attitudes toward two-year colleges were held by the highest level academic administrators. Study findings, as well as a review of the literature, suggest that the significant attitudinal differences between two- and four-year academic administrators can represent an obstacle to coordinated interinstitutional articulation. The survey instrument, a statement on Oklahoma's state articulation policy, and historical student transfer data are appended. (MAB)